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JANAB M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Revenue Divisional Officers are bound to accept the wishes of the public in making such appointments? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, suitability of the applicant is taken into consideration in making the appointments. Whenever there is a dispute, the District Collector also comes into the picture and he has to finalise the appointment."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" The question is whether the gentleman who has been given this licence is still doing the trade? " 2–10 p.m.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I think so; that is why the question has arisen."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" If a particular person does not command the confidence of majority of the people whom he is supposed to serve, will the Government then consider the desirability of withdrawing such a person, as a matter of policy? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If there is any valid objection against any dealer, certainly he will be removed. But no vote is taken to find out as to who gets the majority support in a particular ward."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" In view of the fact that a lot of corruption is going on as far as fair price shops are concerned and in view of the fact that most of the grains that are supplied to them find their way to the blackmarket, will the Government now consider the desirability of seeing that such people are appointed in whom the people of the locality whom they are supposed to serve, have got the confidence? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Whenever instances of corruption or blackmarketing are brought to the notice of the Government, we take very serious action. There is no use making sweeping allegations that every fair price shop dealer is a blackmarketer or that he is corrupt."

' Periyakavundan Anicut ', Musiri taluk.

* 287 *Q.*—SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether ' Periyakavundan Anicut ' across the ' Ayyar River ' in No. 91. Balakrishnampatti village, Musiri taluk, Tiruchirappalli district, was washed away in 1941 and again in 1946;

(*b*) what is the total acreage of lands irrigated by the water diverted by the said anicut from the river;

(*c*) whether the Government received any representation from the ryots regarding the reconstruction of the said anicut; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to reconstruct the anicut, and if so, what the estimated cost is and when the construction will be finished?

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THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) A major portion of the anicut was washed away in 1941 but it was restored in 1943–44. A portion of it was again washed away in 1944 by the unprecedented floods.

" (*b*) 249·34 acres.

" (*c*) Yes.

" (*d*) The proposal to reconstruct the anicut at a site about 1,600 feet higher up the river is already under consideration and the plans and estimates are under revision by local Public Works Department officers. The scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 25,000. It cannot be forecast now when the reconstruction of the anicut will be undertaken."

SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR :—" In view of the fact that during all these six years the Government have failed to provide the accustomed supply of water for irrigation facilities, may I know whether the Government have given any remission in kist to the ayacutdars concerned; if not, till the anicut is restored will the Government take immediate steps to collect kist only at the rates prevailing for dry lands and not for wet lands? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I suppose the hon. Member means that from 1944 there has not been adequate supply of water. Am I right? "

SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR :—" Yes."

SRI R. SIDDANNA GOWD :—" Were precautionary measures taken, Sir, to avert the washing away of the anicut twice in the course of five years? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Accidents happen in spite of precautionary measures. Precautionary measures have been taken; but still the danger has come."

SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR :—" Sir, the Government are bound to ensure a certain supply of water for irrigation facilities for all the lands registered as wet. In view of the fact that during the last six years the Government have failed to reconstruct the anicut and ensure the accustomed quantity of supply of water for irrigation facilities, may I know whether the Government have given remission of kist; if not, will the Government take immediate steps to collect kist only at the rates prevailing for dry lands and not for wet lands? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I may tell the hon. Member that the anicut was repaired in 1943–44 at a cost of Rs. 54,000. But the anicut was damaged and a Korambu anicut was being constructed periodically by the Public Works Department to supply water. The present proposal is to reconstruct the anicut at a site about 1.600 feet higher up the river and supply water without detriment to the

channel and to the Kuppanakottai tank. There is therefore no question of inadequate supply of water to the ayacut and no question of revision of rates at this stage."

SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR :—" On 22nd November 1952, I inspected the site along with the present Executive Engineer, Tiruchirappalli division. There is no anicut worth mentioning. Therefore, is there anything in the file of the Hon. Minister to show that there is anything worth mentioning in the old site where the anicut originally existed and that the accustomed quantity of supply of water is being provided to the agriculturists; if not, will the Government in consultation with the Engineers consider giving remission to these unfortunate agriculturists? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Sir, I already said that there is a proposal to have the anicut reconstructed at a site 1,600 feet, higher up the river, i.e., higher up the present anicut; so far as the present anicut is concerned, I said that it is a korambu anicut and it is being constructed periodically. It is very likely that when the hon. Member visited the place, it has not been in existence."

SRI P. B. K. RAJA CHIDAMBARAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is the inefficiency of the Public Works Department or want of finance that has prevented the Government from reconstructing this small anicut which costs less than Rs. 25,000, during all these six years? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" It is neither inefficiency of the Public Works Department nor want of funds."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, the point of Sri P. Rangasami Reddiar still remains to be answered. In view of the fact that today no anicut worth mentioning is there, will the Government consider giving remission of kist? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I may submit, Sir, I have already answered the question in very clear terms. A korambu anicut is being constructed periodically and there has been no diminution of supply of water to the ayacut. Therefore there is no question of remission of kist."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that it is neither the inefficiency of the Public Works Department nor the want of funds. May I know whether it was due to the inefficiency of the Government that so much delay had been caused? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" It is the opposition of people like Mr. Ramamurthi."

Amount of salaries of Government servants.

* 288 *Q.*—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount spent as salaries of officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and above and as dearness allowance to these officers;